FRAGILE

handle with care

Poetical wordless story for glove puppets

Boxes to hide in, to be surprised by, to reveal oneself, boxes as containers of affections, to distinguish what to keep and what to leave behind, boxes to transport, preserve, give. We too are somewhat like nested boxes, one inside the other, reaching the small, the hidden essence.

Two characters move and act with very different rhythms and intentions, each alone, seeing nothing but their own goal.
There are times when one just wants to disappear.
There are times when our plans are unconsciously hindered.

Facing another person is like facing a gift: expectations and hopes chase and mix with each other, curiosity and distrust alternate, and things rarely go as we would like. Each caught up in their own world, how difficult it is to make a connection.





Glove puppets show

Created and staged by:
Valentina Vecchio
(Cavalieri Erranti Teatro)

Produced by:
Compagnia Kuziba
Stage assistant:
Adriana Gallo
Directed by:
Italo Pecoretti

Puppets by:
Valentina Vecchio
Puppets theater of:
Maurizio Mantani

Made with the support of
sQuolaGaribaldi,
Linea d'onda
and thanks to ***Area Teatro***

A show born from a vision

During the pandemic, a child refused to appear on video unless hidden behind a mask made from a cardboard box. That image stayed so vividly in my mind that it kept raising persistent questions. I began to see every person carrying an invisible box on their head, varying in weight and size. I felt the urge to tell this story—this need to be present, to show oneself and to hide, to curl up, to isolate, to be found, and to meet.

Notes:

This is a wordless performance, brought to life with neutral puppets—without eyes or mouths—allowing them to embody any gender, age, or nationality. Stripping them of words, I tried to reach the essence of the gesture; with the help of the director (Italo Pecoretti), we sought to keep both poetry and lightness.

Moments of music alternate with moments of true silence, which is why the show needs a protected setting. It can be performed outdoors, but only in a courtyard or a place without through traffic; it is not suitable for an open square.

Everything takes place within a small theatre structure (120x120 cm, height 190 cm) with minimal scenery and essential props.
Minimum performance area: 3m x 3m.
Please allow for a distance from the audience that ensures good visibility.

At the end of the performance, it is possible to stay and exchange impressions, as well as create small drawings to leave in the box.









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The project **"FRAGILE. Handle with Care"**, conceived and directed by **Valentina Vecchio (Cavalieri Erranti Teatro)**, is produced by the **company Kuziba**.

CAVALIERI ERRANTI TEATRO

Founded in 2008 as an informal group led by **Valentina Vecchio**, following her encounter with the Teatro Casa di Pulcinella and the company Figli d'arte Cuticchio (Palermo), it began creating storytelling and puppet theatre productions that have toured theatres, squares, and festivals across Italy, including La macchina dei sogni (Palermo), Arrivano dal mare (Cesena), Il tempo dei piccoli (Bisceglie/Corato), the Sorrivoli Puppet Festival (Cesena), the Festival delle due Sicilie (Syracuse), Ti fiabo e ti racconto (Molfetta), and Immagini dell'interno (Pinerolo, Turin).

Among the self-produced shows currently in distribution are: Cose che cadono dal cielo (storytelling and puppetry), **Le avventure di una gazza ladra** (a puppet-based animated story), **Invasione degli scarafaggi. The Mafia Explained to Children** (directed by Alessio Di Modica, produced by Area Teatro, SR), and **Fortunadovesei** with live transverse flute music by Eliana Losciale.

Part of the company's work involves workshops in puppet-making and performance for children, adults, teachers, and social workers, using methods and materials tailored to different age groups and contexts—from nursery school to special educational needs—always seeking, together with participants, a universal language in which the puppet becomes a tool.

Since 2015, the company has been part of the **"SQuolaGaribaldi"** network of artists and companies in Bisceglie (BT). Since 2016, it has taught puppet theatre at the SICLOT clown therapy school in Brindisi.

Since 2020, it has run a permanent puppet theatre workshop for people with disabilities at the association **"Pegaso ETS."**

COMPAGNIA KUZIBA

The Kuziba Company was founded in 2011 after winning the "Principi Attivi 2010" call for proposals from the Puglia Region with the project Il teatro ti sPiazza ("Theatre Displaces You"). Since then, it has been active both in the region and nationally, developing projects aimed at promoting the performing arts in different contexts. In particular, it focuses on the production and touring of works of civic interest, children's theatre, and theatre training. The company's artistic language has grown from the experience of **Il teatro che non c'è** ("The Theatre That Isn't There"), a research path made up of various participatory theatrical actions in unconventional spaces. In 2017 came Il Viaggio di Darwish. Viaggio nella poesia dello scrittore Mahmoud Darwish ("The Journey of Darwish – A Journey into the Poetry of Writer Mahmoud Darwish"), a theatrical journey across Puglia by bicycle along the Southern Via Francigena (created and performed by Bruno Soriato and Iyas Jubeh, winner of the "In Puglia 365" call). Since 2018, the company has curated **Il tempo dei Piccoli** ("The Time of the Little Ones"), a children's festival held in the cities of Bisceglie (BT), Corato (BA), and Andria (BT) — an event rich in theatre, music, dance, and cinema for young audiences and their families, organised in collaboration with Sistema Garibaldi (Bisceglie) and the Teatro Pubblico Pugliese, under the artistic direction of Bruno Soriato.

Among the productions currently on tour:
Vassilissa e la Babaracca ("Vassilissa and the Little Shack") – 2017, directed by Raffaella Giancipoli; finalist in "In Box Verde 2018," winner of the Otello Sarzi Award – New Figures in Children's Theatre 2018, and the Emanuele Luzzati Award – National Children's Theatre Festival 2018. Nel castello di Barbablù ("In Bluebeard's Castle") – 2019, directed by Raffaella Giancipoli; produced with the support of Sistema Garibaldi, Puglia Region, TRAC Puglia – Teatro Crest, and Rete IN-BOX; selected among the best children's theatre productions in Puglia for "PUGLIA SHOWCASE KIDS" at the 2019 Napoli Teatro Festival. Fiori del deserto. Trittico degli eremiti mediterranei ("Desert Flowers – Triptych of Mediterranean Hermits") – 2021, directed by Bruno Soriato; produced with the support of Culture in Cammino – Puglia Region. Totò degli alberi. La vera storia del barone rampicante nel teatro più piccolo del mondo ("Totò of the Trees – The True Story of the Climbing Baron in the Smallest Theatre in the World") – 2022, directed by Bruno Soriato; produced with the support of Sistema Garibaldi and the Italian Ministry of Culture, in co-production with TibTeatro. In 2023, the company premiered Come SeMe ("Like a Seed"), a production for early childhood directed by Annabella Tedone, co-produced with Teatri di Bari. Since 2021, the company has been supported by the Italian Ministry of Culture under the category of experimental theatre for children and youth.